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UW Huskies

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NATIONAL DISTRIBUTOR
G Associates, Inc.

Huskers Illustrated (ISSN 0279-3474) is published monthly January through May and August, bi-monthly June/July and weekly September through mid-December, except open football dates. Single issue cost \$3.95 (yearbook \$9.95); subscription rate for one year (19 issues) is \$51.95. First Class postage is available for an additional charge of \$19 per year. Foreign postage is \$34.

Huskers Illustrated is published by Landmark Community Newspapers, 2623 Regency Rd., Lexington, KY 40503. Periodicals postage paid at Lexington, KY, and additional mailing offices.

Postmaster: Send address changes to Huskers Illustrated, 7755 S. 23rd St., Lincoln, NE 68512.

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For subscription inquiries, mail to Huskers Illustrated, 2623 Regency Rd., Lexington, KY 40503. Allow four to six weeks for response. Give old and new addresses and enclose latest mailing address label when writing about your subscription.

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Advertising: tfrancis@lcnj.com

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Offense draws a "you-know-what-chewing"



The Huskers huddle up prior to the game.



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NEXT ISSUE

Volume 30, Issue 10, the Washington recap and South Dakota State preview, will be mailed Monday, Sept. 20. Check for updates at huskersillustrated.com.



HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED

ON THE COVER

Junior defensive tackle Jared Crick foils an Idaho trick play by sacking quarterback and North Platte native, Nathan Enderle. Crick finished with six tackles and 2 1/2 sacks as Nebraska defeated the Idaho Vandals, 38-10. The Blackshirts were ball hogs, snatching five interceptions, two which went for touchdowns.

Photo by Aaron Babcock

HUSKERS SLOPPY IN IDAHO WIN

Defense delivers,
offense careless

LIKE MOST HUSKER FANS, I was hoping to see a sharp, disciplined effort by the Huskers before heading to Seattle to face the University of Washington. Instead, we saw a sloppy, penalty-ridden effort by the Cornhusker offense, while the Blackshirts put on a take-away clinic.

You can take the glass half-full, or glass half-empty approach, but either way Nebraska hasn't turned in a complete game in its first two chances this season.

In week one, the defense that drew the ire of head coach Bo Pelini. In week two, Pelini ripped into the offense, despite a 38-17 win over Idaho.

Yes, Nebraska rushed for 360 yards and averaged 8.0 yards per play in the game. But Nebraska fumbled eight times and was penalized 10 times for 123 yards.

That's a lot of mistakes.

So its no surprise that those alarming numbers spoiled the 157-yard rushing effort by Taylor Martinez and 107-yard output from Roy Helu Jr.

As Mike Babcock points out in The Final Word, Pelini made no effort to hide his disgust following Saturday's game. We can only hope he gave his offensive squad the same speech he gave the defense a week ago.

Whatever he said worked. A week after looking disorganized, the Husker defense recorded five interceptions,



seven sacks, and held Idaho to 1.6 yards per carry. If the offense responds like the defense did in week two, the Huskers should be in fine shape next week.

I attended an open Washington practice in August and I've also seen each of Washington's first two games. Those games were a season-opening 23-17 loss at BYU and a 41-20 win against Syracuse.

This is a game Nebraska should win. The Huskies appear to be on the road to success, but they aren't there yet. The defense will need to smart as Washington has several explosive play-makers on offense and can put points on the board in a hurry.

But I don't think Washington will be able to slow the Husker offense – if Nebraska executes and avoids stupid penalties and turnovers. I also think Nebraska is saving some wrinkles on both offense and defense to show the Huskies.

The key comes down to Nebraska. If it eliminates mistakes, it can come home and enjoy an easy win against South Dakota State and take a 4-0 record into its last-ever Big 12 season. **N**

Send me your comments or story ideas to aaron@huskersillustrated.com.





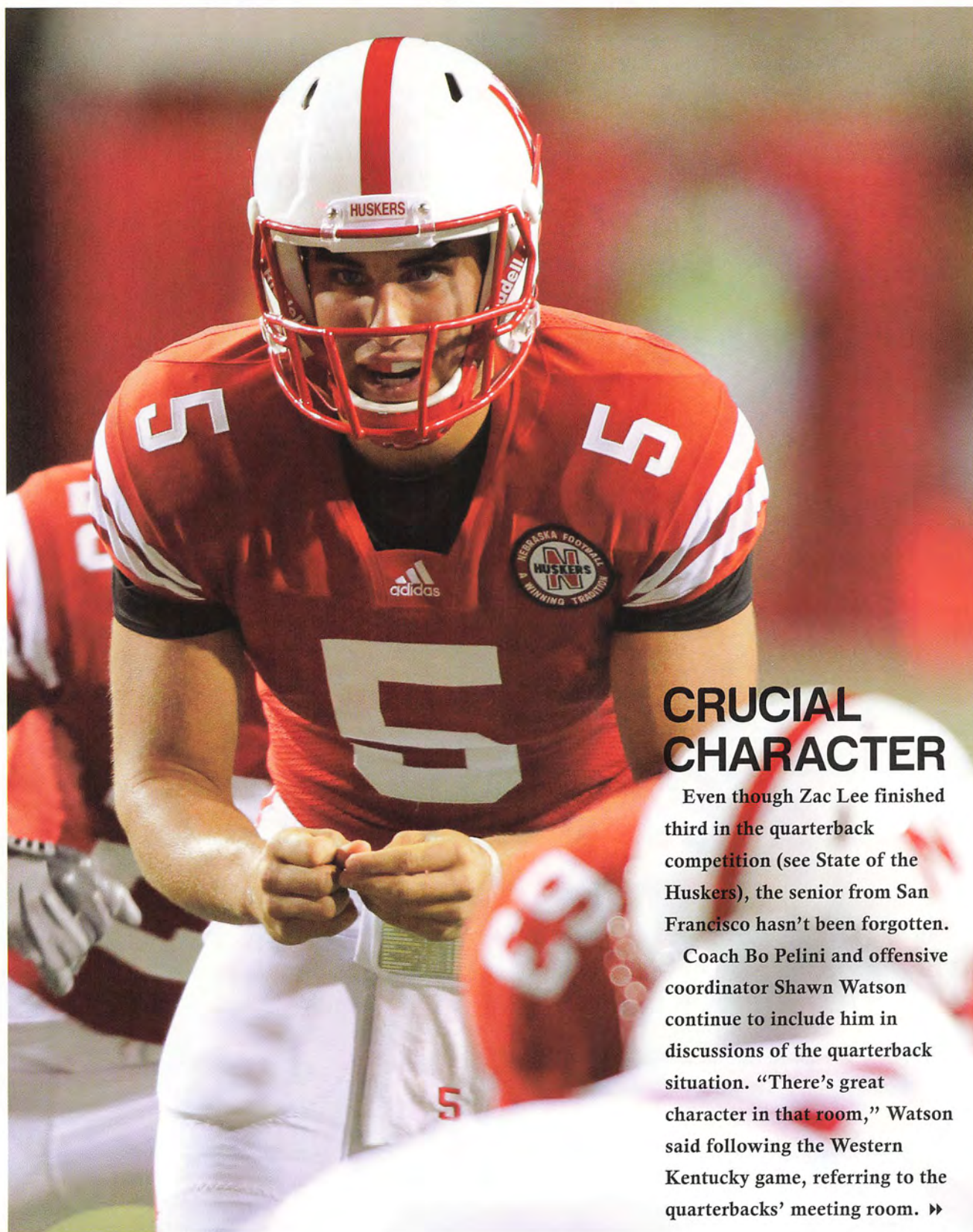
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CRUCIAL CHARACTER

Even though Zac Lee finished third in the quarterback competition (see State of the Huskers), the senior from San Francisco hasn't been forgotten.

Coach Bo Pelini and offensive coordinator Shawn Watson continue to include him in discussions of the quarterback situation. "There's great character in that room," Watson said following the Western Kentucky game, referring to the quarterbacks' meeting room. ►

AARON BABCOCK

Such character is crucial, as history has shown. Consider Mark Mauer in 1981.

Mauer was a senior quarterback who had been a back-up for two seasons after starting on the freshman team and then redshirting. During those four years, he earned the respect of his teammates and was voted co-captain in 1981, despite never having started a varsity game to that point.

He started the 1981 opener at Iowa, a frustrating 10-7 upset loss, then gave way to junior Nate Mason, who led the Huskers to a 34-14 victory against Florida State and played well in a 30-24 loss against No. 3 Penn State, before being sidelined by a season-ending ankle injury.



Mauer got another chance, starting against Auburn. But the Huskers struggled in the rain, trailing 3-0 at halftime, and sophomore Turner Gill, for whom the fans had been clamoring, came off the bench to spark a 17-3 victory. Gill started the next week against Colorado, Nebraska's fourth consecutive home game, threw four touchdown passes and solidified his claim to the starting job. But he suffered a season-ending leg injury in the final home game, a 31-7 victory against Iowa State.

The Huskers again turned to Mauer to start the final regular-season game at Oklahoma. He completed 11-of-16 passes for 148 yards and a touchdown to lead Nebraska to a 37-14 victory, its first at Norman, Okla., since the 1971 "Game of the Century."

Character? What better example?

Lee has shown similar character. "We ask him, obviously, to take on a huge role because he's very important to our team. He has strong leadership with our guys. He's very well-respected," said Watson. "He understood from us that his role was even more important and how he handled it would really say a lot about who he is and what his intentions are for our team.

"I think he's answered like a champion. He's been awesome."

It's a long season. You never know what might happen.

HI'S TOP 5

FIVE FROM WASHINGTON



Washington hasn't been a prime recruiting area for Nebraska, far from it, for obvious reasons beginning with distance. Even so, the Huskers have attracted a handful of players from there over the years. Here are five whose names you might remember.

- 1 ADAM CARRIKER** • Kennewick, DE (2003-06)
Two-time first-team all-conference, Big 12 Defensive Lineman of the Year in 2006, co-captain, also played quarterback in high school.
- 2 JON BOSTICK** • Bellevue, SE (1989-90-91)
First-team All-Big Eight as a senior, when he caught 24 passes for 419 yards and five touchdowns, 15 career TD passes.
- 3 CURT HINELINE** • Bellevue, MG (1979-80-81)
Second-team All-Big Eight as a junior, All-America Strength Team, set school record with 425-pound bench press.
- 4 MARK LEROY** • Seattle, M (1978-79)
Senior starter at monster back and honorable mention All-Big Eight, transfer from Clackamas (Ore.) Community College.
- 5 LEON JACKSON** • Pasco, IB (2005)
Member of one of Nebraska's most publicized recruiting classes, lettered as a true freshmen then transferred to Hawaii.

HE'S HERE, HE'S THERE



Officially, senior **MIKE MCNEILL** is now the "ZEBRA" receiver, after spending his first three seasons and a redshirt as a tight end. But he was used to moving around before becoming the adjuster. Regardless of what he's called, "I'm still a moving piece," he said. "Whether you call it a tight end or wide receiver, I do more with the receivers than I used to do. But I can still play anywhere."

He's done that during his career. "I've played on the

line, in the slot, out wide, at fullback, so I've played a few more (positions) than most. At the same time, everyone's got to be interchangeable," he said. "You've got to know all the (receiver) positions."

Junior **RYAN HILL**, who is now listed as a fullback after two seasons and a redshirt as a tight end, could say the same. "He's kind of like me," said McNeill. "He's been all over the block."

No pun intended with the word "block."



MIKE MCNEILL

PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

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TENTH ON THE DEPTH CHART

The week of the opener against Western Kentucky, Bo Pelini was asked if quarterbacks Zac Lee, Cody Green and Taylor Martinez all would see action. Pelini was refusing to answer which of the three would be starting, even though it turns out the quarterbacks had been told on Monday that Martinez would start. "I've said it before, we might play 10 guys at quarterback," Pelini said. "There's a lot of things that could happen. I don't have a crystal ball on how the game's going to go on Saturday."

So who's the No. 10 quarterback, Pelini was asked to laughter.

"The lefty who's the head coach," he said. "I might be able to come back and play. I don't know."

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MOORE CONFIDENCE

After taking a third hard hit that day, **Blake Lawrence** thought "You go tell the trainers today's your last day of practice, today's your last day of football. Today's the last day your wear pads, you wear a helmet. Today's the last day you do anything."

by Brian Rosenthal

Blake Lawrence



Monday, we're going to the top of the...
Lawrence lined up for a blocking drill...
the biggest practice. He was excited to see...
the national football team, a 100...
200-pound fullback, Dave Williams, was...
repeated to him.

NILES TO

RECEIVER PAUL GROWS INTO LEADERSHIP ROLE | BY BRIAN ROSENTHAL

BLACKSHIRT BREAKDOWN CRICK Takes Over

OFFENSE ANALYSIS Who's the QB

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PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



BUT SERIOUSLY, FOLKS

CARL PELINI has a wry sense of humor. Consider two examples.

On "facing" **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** in practice as defensive coordinator: "I have not faced Taylor every day in practice. I can't cover anybody. My knees kill me. I'd rather stick to (coordinating) the defense, honestly. I enjoyed recruiting him, though. I liked watching him play in high school."

On whether he thought brother Bo was more stressed this season, with less patience for mistakes because of expectations based on pre-season Top-10 rankings: "Yeah, because he's always been very relaxed, not a lot of stress going on, so I would say it's more this year."

After the laughter died down, Carl added: No, it's the same thing that we

say. We operate in that culture where it's always high stress and we always feel a lot of pressure. He's always putting more pressure on us (assistants), probably no more than we put on ourselves."

AN OCCASIONAL WHOPPER, PERHAPS

OK, although Nebraska's sports nutritionist **JOSH HINGST** might not appreciate this, **BRANDON KINNIE'S** nickname, "BK," apparently is appropriate, and not just because it's based on the junior wide receiver's initials. Kinnie admits he enjoys going to Burger King now and then.

In fact, "I like it a lot," he said of the fast-food franchise. "I like it a whole lot."

SIDELINES



GENESIS UNKNOWN

Yes, redshirted freshman **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** already has a nickname. "We call him 'T-Magic,'" said senior wide receiver **NILES PAUL**. "I don't know how it came about."

The light seemed to go on for "T-Magic" during the second week of fall camp, according to Paul. "The first week he was rushing things. Then you see him getting comfortable with us back there and finally catch a rhythm with all the receivers and started putting the ball where it was supposed to be."

OOPS

During the pre-Western Kentucky teleconference, **BO PELINI** was asked if he had seen **NDAMUKONG SUH'S** roughing penalty against Cleveland Browns quarterback **JAKE DELHOMME** during the NFL exhibition season. He hadn't, Pelini said, but he had read about it.

"It seems like he might be a little bit lighter in his wallet, I guess, from what I read," said Pelini. "It depends on the severity of it. He might learn a lesson. It might be a lesson learned there."

Suh's wallet was lighter, as it turned out. He was fined \$7,500.

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PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

STAYING HEALTHY

ROY HELU, JR. endured a nagging shoulder injury last season to rush for 1,147 yards and 10 touchdowns last season. During fall camp, he was asked if he had prepared better in the off-season to avoid a recurrence of such a problem. "I prepared myself really well for last year," he said. "Stuff just happens. I think the only thing I could do better is to just keep focusing on (encouraging) others instead of myself because it's really easy to focus on yourself when you get injured."

"It's all about you. I think that's probably the only way if it comes up again."

TAKING IT DAY-BY-DAY

Never mind the hype. And **PRINCE AMUKAMARA** has had to deal with plenty of it as one of the top NFL prospects in the country at cornerback. "Coach **(BO) PELINI**, he really just emphasizes focusing on the process and just taking it day-by-day, so I just took that into account with all the . . . awards and stuff like that," said Amukamara. "I think **(NDAMUKONG) SUH** handled it very well. He wasn't very cocky or arrogant about it. He seemed humble and graceful about it, so yeah, I'm learning a little bit from him, too."

SIDELINES



HALL OF FAMERS ALL

Seven former Cornhuskers were among those inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame at a dinner on the Friday night before the Idaho game: Dan Alexander (LB, 1997-2000), Todd Millikan (TE, 1985-88), Ed Periard (MG, 1968-70), Bob Pickens (OT, 1966), Carlos Polk (LB, 1997-2000) and Chris Spachman (DT, 1984-86). Periard was inducted posthumously.

Ndamukong Suh also was a member of the 2010 class, an automatic entry as a major award winner. The Detroit Lions rookie will be formally recognized at a later date.



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2010 Nebraska Football Schedule

Date	Opponent	Location	Time
Sat, Sept. 4	Western Kentucky	Memorial Stadium	6:00 pm
Sat, Sept. 11	Idaho	Memorial Stadium	11:30 am
Sat, Sept. 18	at Washington	Husky Stadium	2:30 pm
Sat, Sept. 25	South Dakota State	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Thur, Oct. 7	at Kansas State	Snyder Stadium	6:30 pm
Sat, Oct. 16	Texas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 23	at Oklahoma State	Pickens Stadium	TBA
Sat, Oct. 30	Missouri	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 6	at Iowa State	Trice Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 13	Kansas	Memorial Stadium	TBA
Sat, Nov. 20	at Texas A&M	Kyle Field	TBA
Fri, Nov. 26	Colorado	Memorial Stadium	2:30 pm



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NO EXTRA ATTENTION

The question was whether Jared Crick would get the same opportunities this season with Ndamukong Suh no longer alongside him. “We don’t funnel things to anybody,” said Bo Pelini. “We just line up and play. Let me tell you, I’ve watched the film. They (opponents) didn’t treat Suh any different than they treated Crick. Teams can’t; you can’t do that. That’s a misconception out there that you’re able to go ahead, just take this guy and account for him every down and double him every play. That isn’t the way football works. So I think that’s really the reality of it.”

TOUGH JOB

CODY GREEN can empathize with his position coach, offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON**, and the difficulty in settling on a starting quarterback. “I would not like to be in his shoes because, you know, there’s three quarterbacks that we have that were so close going through fall camp, so, so close,” Green said. “I honestly don’t think he would have been wrong picking any of us . . . somebody can mess up and the next guy can be in there and won’t miss a beat. That’s how we were during fall camp, and the reps with the 1’s, you can ask the linemen, ask any of them, they didn’t know who is in, basically.

“They didn’t care because they knew



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

we were going to get the job done, no matter what. So for him and the job he does, I don’t know if I could do it. I’d rather just sit here and play than to call the shots.”



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

TEAM GUY

Senior **LATRAVIS WASHINGTON**, who began his career as a linebacker and was moved to quarterback, volunteered for special teams during fall camp. “I went to the coaches and asked them could I get on the units,” he said. “They agreed upon it and said it’s a way to get you on the field and play on those units, so it’ll be very, very good.” He began working

with the kickoff return and punt return units.

“He’s done a lot, sacrificed a lot for this football team,” said Bo Pelini. “Latravis is as good a guy in the locker room as you’re ever going to have around, great attitude.

“He’s a winner. I can’t say enough good things about him.”

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HOMETOWN HEROES



Fremont



Fremont has contributed its share of players to Nebraska's football program. Among communities in the state outside of Omaha and Lincoln, only Grand Island and Columbus have produced more Cornhusker football lettermen. Two of the most notable have been offensive lineman **ZACH**

WIEGERT and quarterback **GERRY GDOWSKI** (pictured).

You'll find Wiegert listed in the Wikipedia Internet encyclopedia entry for Fremont, under the heading: "Notable Residents." **HAROLD EUGENE EDGERTON** and **MARG HELGENBERGER** also are listed. Edgerton was a professor of electrical engineering at MIT, the entry says, and Helgenberger is an actress, her most notable roles being on CSI: Crime Scene Investigation and China Beach.

Wiegert was the right tackle on Nebraska's original "Pipeline." He won the Outland Trophy in 1994. He was the UPI national lineman of the year; a consensus All-American; a three-time first-team all-conference selection; and a Lombardi Award finalist. He also finished in a ninth-place tie with Washington's Napoleon Kaufman in voting for the Heisman Trophy.

Wiegert played in 46 games as a Husker, with 36 consecutive starts, and he allowed only one sack.

For one season, 1989, Gdowski was about as productive a quarterback as has ever taken a snap at Nebraska. He was the Big Eight Co-Offensive Player of the Year, nearly becoming the first Husker to rush and pass for 1,000 yards in a season. He finished with 925 yards rushing, averaging 7.9 yards per carry. He completed 71-of-136 passes for 1,326 yards and 19 touchdowns, with only two interceptions. And his 2,251 total-offense yards were the second-most in school history at the time.

Gdowski also was a first-team Academic All-American.

FREMONT, NE

County: Dodge (county seat)

Population: 25,007 (2009)

Distance from Lincoln: 45 miles

DID YOU KNOW?

► Zach Wiegert and his older brother, Erik, were both Cornhusker co-captains as seniors. Erik also played in the offensive line, starting at tackle as well as at guard. Only five other sets of brothers have ever been football co-captains at Nebraska.

► Fremont was founded in 1856 and named after John C. Fremont, a controversial American explorer, politician and military officer. He was nicknamed "The Pathfinder."

► Fremont is home to Midland Lutheran, an undergraduate liberal arts college established in 1883. It has an enrollment of approximately 1,000.

NU FOOTBALL LETTERMEN

Dan Anderson, OG (1972-73)
Chip Bahe, SE (1987-88-89)
Ritch Bahe, WB (1972-73-74)
Arthur Ball, HB (1936)
Wes Cody, OG (2000-01-02)
Herbert R. Dana, E (1919-20)
Duncan Drum, C (1963-64-65)
*Gerry Gdowski, QB (1987-88-89)
Gerald Jacupke, G (1943-46-47)
Bob Kingston, IB (1984)
Merritt Nelson, TE (1995)
Marvin Paul, HB (1929-30-31)
Randy Poeschl, DT (1976-77-78)
Henry Rohn, FB (1939-40)
Ulysses Schlueter, T (1932)
Bryan Siebler, S (1984-85-86)
Robert Tegt, T (1945-46)
Tom Vering, LB (1977-78-79)
*Erik Wiegert, OG (1989-90-91)
***Zach Wiegert, OT
(1991-92-93-94)

[*First-team all-conference, #All-American]

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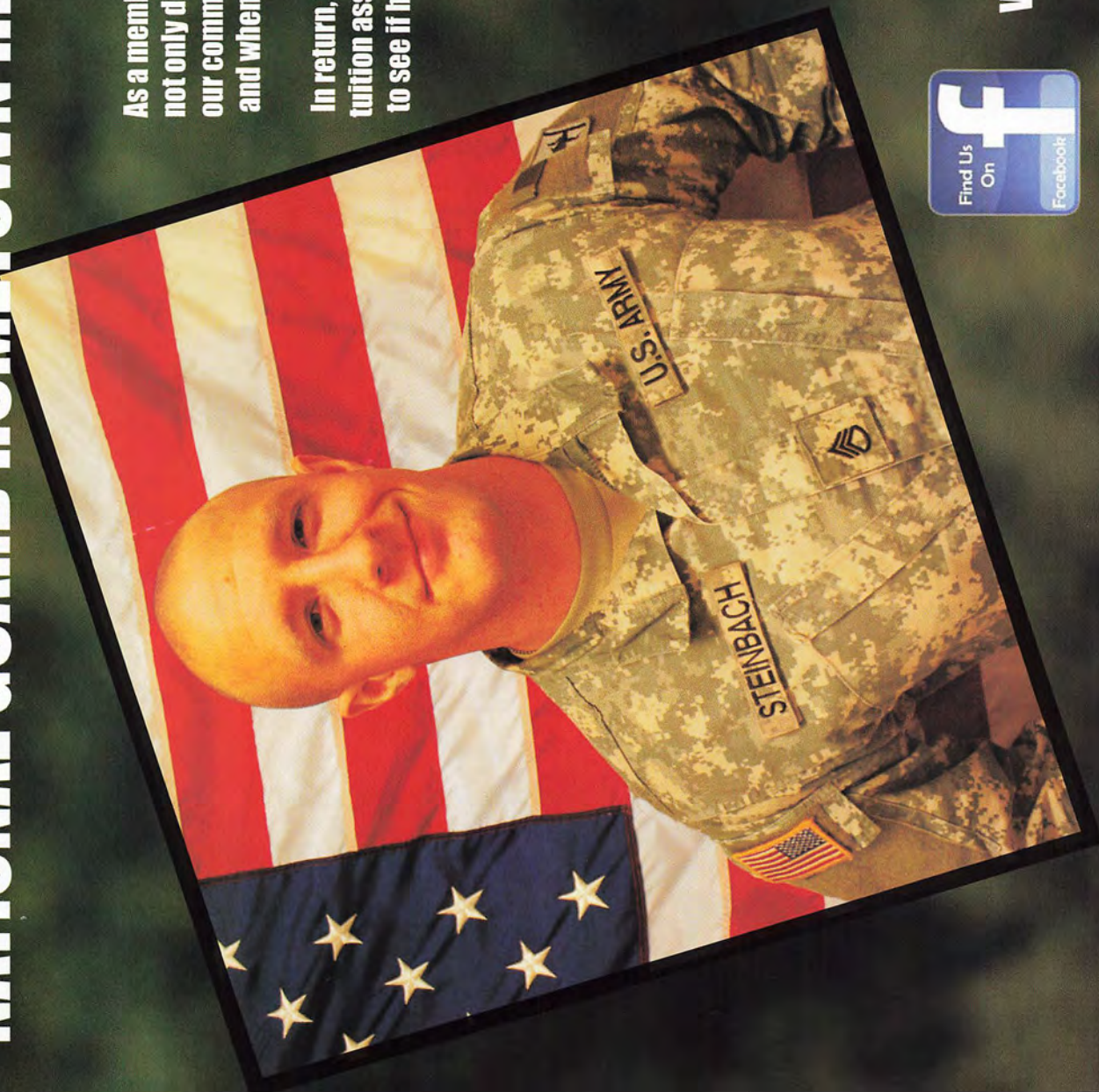
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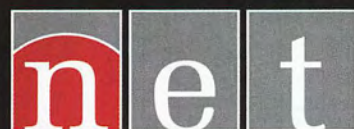
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Indiana Hoosiers

Despite program's lack of success, Indiana leads all-time series against Huskers, 9-7-3 | TERRY DOUGLASS



INDIANA HAS ONE of the least decorated football programs in the Big Ten, having won just one outright conference title in 1945 and one shared title in 1967.

Overall, Indiana has finished the season ranked in the final Associated Press poll five times with the most recent coming in 1988 when it ended at No. 20. The highest finish for the Hoosiers in the AP poll was No. 4 in both 1945 and 1967.

Indiana has made nine appearances in bowl games and has a 3-6 record. The Hoosiers last postseason appearance was a 49-33 loss to Oklahoma State in the 2007

Insight Bowl. The program's most recent bowl victory was a 24-0 victory over Baylor in the 1991 Copper Bowl.

While Indiana has just six members of the College Football Hall of Fame, notable coaching names include Lou Saban, Jim Thorpe (assistant), Sam Wyche and Lee Corso. The late Terry Hoepfner coached the Hoosiers in 2005-06 before dying of brain cancer in June of 2007.

Indiana leads Nebraska 9-7-3 in the all-time series between the two schools. The Cornhuskers have won the last four meetings, including winning the most recent matchup back in 1978.

DON'T MISS

Indiana University is located in Bloomington, Ind., which is a 662-mile drive from Lincoln. Indianapolis, just 51 miles away, is the closest major airport.

The Hoosiers play their home games in Memorial Stadium (also known as "The Rock"), which underwent a \$3.5 million renovation in 2003, funded in part by ex-Indiana quarterback Trent Green. The 52,692-seat facility features a FieldTurf playing surface and a 36-by-91-foot high-definition scoreboard, which is the 10th largest in the country and will be added to the south end zone for the 2010 season.

Fall visitors to Bloomington might want to check out the Lotus World Music and Arts Festival, an internationally known music event.



HEAD COACH

Resume: Bill Lynch is 14-23 in three seasons as Indiana's head coach. Lynch, who spent 32 years coaching football in the state of Indiana, took over for the late Terry Hoepfner in the spring of 2007 when he was forced to take a leave of absence.

NAMES TO KNOW

ANTHONY THOMPSON:

(pictured center) Former Indiana running back won the 1989 Maxwell and Walter Camp awards, finishing second in the Heisman voting. The All-American finished his career with 5,299 rushing yards and a then-NCAA record 65 touchdowns.

BILL MALLORY: The winningest coach in Hoosier history, compiling a 69-77-3 record at Indiana from 1984-1996. Mallory was named Big Ten coach of the year in 1986 and 1987, leading his program to six bowl games.

BO MCMILLIN: (pictured left) Used a fairly successful run at Kansas State to receive the head coaching job at Indiana from 1934-47. McMillin guided the Hoosiers to an unbeaten season in 1945, winning the Big Ten Conference title.

JOHN PONT: The head coach of Indiana's only Rose Bowl qualifying team in 1945, Pont served as the program's head coach from 1965-72. Won the Paul "Bear" Bryant, Walter Camp and AFCA coaching awards in 1967.

ANTWAAN RANDLE EL:

(pictured right) Heisman Trophy contender and the Big Ten offensive player of the year in 2001, the quarterback was the first player in Division I history with both 40 career rushing and passing TDs.



STATE OF THE HUSKERS

BY CURT MCKEEVER

Speed pushes Martinez past Lee

AS IF TO SIGNAL the return of a bygone era, the race to be Nebraska's starting quarterback came down to what else? Blazing speed.

That's a tough pill for Zac Lee, a 12-game starter in 2009 who did an admirable job of managing the Huskers while steering them to the Big 12 championship game. But as we all know, Lee will never be known for the ability to make plays with his legs.

He's a passer first, and even then the 14 touchdowns he tossed last season were just four more than his interception total. Add the struggles Lee had against Oklahoma (22 total yards) and Texas (51) to the fact that he missed spring practice while recovering from surgery to his throwing arm and you had a situation that allowed for change.

Cody Green, a guy who proved he wasn't ready for prime time as a freshman, received a lot of first-team reps he might not have gotten otherwise.

Then there was the kid who spent most of last season running opponent plays while he redshirted — Taylor Martinez. It took one carry for Husker fans to learn about his capabilities. On a simple zone read, Martinez zipped through the Western Kentucky defensive line before zig-zagging his way to a 46-yard touchdown.

Playing a turnover-free game, he

would add two more TD runs and finish with 127 yards on just seven carries to become the first Nebraska quarterback in seven years to hit the century mark.

Before Lee entered, Green also marched the Huskers to touchdowns on his two drives.

Yes, it would appear that the incumbent starter is now the odd man out.

Throughout fall practice, Nebraska offensive coordinator Shawn Watson reiterated that the competition for the job was "very, very, very close."

Green labeled it so grueling an ordeal that, "It's affected me to the point where I know I can't mess up. I have to be focused 24/7 through practice, out of practice, keep my head in the books. Anything can happen. An ankle can turn. Something like that. That's what coach Bo and everybody has been preaching. Compete, compete, compete. Be ready."

Apparently, all three players were up for the challenge. But Martinez's speed was the separator.

It's also possible that while Nebraska got used to playing bruising, low-scoring slugfests last season, it's now a team with bigger aspirations. And teams like that usually are looking to become dominant on both sides of the ball.

Though his career is just beginning, Martinez's zip and surprising sharpness managing the flow of things leaves NU with a wild-card. And that could leave Lee destined to be the forgotten man.

It's not out of the question for a backup quarterback to get pushed into a bigger role. It happened at the end of the 2007 season, when the Huskers discovered Joe Ganz after Sam Keller got injured. But the last time a No. 3 quarterback at NU was summoned into the spotlight was clear back in 1994 when Matt Turman started a pivotal game at Kansas State.

Nebraska seems intent on committing to Martinez and Green, and a proven duo at I-back. And why not? The Huskers gained 536 yards in the opener while averaging 8.8 yards per rush. That second figure ranked No. 2 nationally.

Unless Watson has been totally fooled, Lee will continue to push to improve his standing. More importantly, he'll do so without becoming a detriment to what Nebraska is trying to accomplish.

"He's into our team," Watson said. "Zac Lee is a competitive guy. He's worked his tail end off to be a better player — and he is."

But the Huskers have just decided to take their offense another direction — one that history would suggest leads to an exciting future. **N**



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FIVE QUESTIONS

Cameron Meredith

The Mustached-Sophomore Takes Five

LOOK IN THIS YEAR'S NEBRASKA FOOTBALL MEDIA GUIDE, and you'll see Cameron Meredith sporting a full, well-groomed mustache.

Meredith said he decided to grow one after seeing a wall of photos of mustachioed Huskers from the '70s and '80s.

"I was like, 'These are some good, legendary people here,'" Meredith said.

In particular, Meredith was impressed by the mustache worn by Mike Knox, an All-Big Eight linebacker in 1983.

"I added him on Facebook," Meredith said. "Hopefully I'll get to know him."

Meredith's mustache isn't just for a different look, though. He said he's become interested in Mustaches vs. Cancer — a mustache-growing contest, of sorts, that raises money for young cancer patients.

"I followed up a little bit on Facebook, with the organization, and I think after the season, I'm going to start getting involved with that," Meredith said. "Right now, I'm busy with school and football and all that, but I think once the off-season comes, I'm definitely going to look into that and really help out with that."

Meredith said he had a friend

in high school, a friend he'd known since elementary school, who had cancer.

"He battled cancer, and that's something that I've always wanted to help out with, was kids with cancer, or kids in need," Meredith said. "It's a great thing to do, and something easy to do, that makes someone's life that much better."



1

HUSKERS ILLUSTRATED If they ever made a movie about you, what actor should play you?

CAMERON MEREDITH You know, I'm not good with actors, so I'm not too sure about that one. That's a tough question.

2

HI Who's your favorite NFL team and why?

MEREDITH I would say the Oakland Raiders because my family is good friends with Mark Davis, Al Davis' son.



3

HI Besides the cold weather, what was your biggest adjustment to life in Nebraska?

MEREDITH The overall culture here is a little bit different. California is laid-back, a lot of things to do, a lot of stuff going on. Here with the winter, the cold is the main thing, but there's a whole other thing to it. You're staying inside, watching TV, just hanging out. I had to get used to that.

4

HI Where's the best place to take a date in Lincoln?

MEREDITH I always take my girlfriend to The Oven, for Indian food. Really good. I'm into different foods and stuff, so I love going there.

5

HI What's on your DVR right now?

MEREDITH Tosh.0. It's on Comedy Central. He's a comedian. It's real funny. He just kind of makes fun of Internet videos and stuff like that.





by Terry Douglass

TURNING POINT



PHOTO BY AARON BABCOCK

Christmas comes early

WITH NEBRASKA leading just 10-0 early in the second quarter and its offense struggling, the Cornhuskers got a major lift from their defense in a 38-17 victory over Idaho.

During a 3 1/2-minute span, Nebraska snared three interceptions and converted them into 21 points. P.J. Smith started the pickoff parade, setting up Roy Helu's 58-yard touchdown run with 8:22 remaining in the half.

On Idaho's next two possessions, the Huskers produced two more interceptions, both going for scores. First, DeJon Gomes returned one 40 yards for a TD and then Rickey Thenarse added a 47-yard pick-six a little more than 2 minutes later, surging Nebraska to a 31-0 advantage 4 minutes before halftime.

"It's just a huge momentum lift, especially when you can take them to the house," Nebraska defensive tackle Jared Crick said of the defensive scores. "It's just instant points — the offense doesn't even have to come onto the field."

The Huskers outscored Idaho 28-3 in the second quarter while running only six offensive plays.

Nebraska finished with five interceptions and five sacks against highly touted NFL quarterback prospect Nathan Enderle, a North Platte native.

Anthony West and Alfonzo Dennard also picked off passes for the Huskers.

"A couple of us on the sideline were saying, 'They're throwing out presents. He's throwing presents to us . . . gifts. We've just got to get it and go. It's Christmas,'" Smith said. "Everyone knew we had a good opportunity to get our hands on the ball; we just had to take advantage of it."

Defensive coordinator Carl Pelini said Nebraska's secondary was "aggressive to the football."

"They challenged every route and that's the kind of football that we expect from those guys," said Pelini, whose unit had seven sacks and forced six turnovers overall. "That was our message to them last night: 'Come on, let it loose, play to your ability and challenge everything.' That's what they did."

Gomes said he knew there would be opportunities for interceptions against Enderle, who showed a willingness to try and squeeze passes in to well-covered receivers.

"He eyed his receivers quite a bit, but also he's a risk-taking quarterback," Gomes said. "Sometimes you gamble and you win, and sometimes you gamble and you lose." **N**

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN



PHOTO BY RANDY HAMPTON

ACTING HIS AGE

Although Nebraska quarterback **TAYLOR MARTINEZ** had an impressive day on the stat sheet with 157 yards and two touchdowns rushing to go with 106 yards passing, offensive coordinator **SHAWN WATSON** said he definitely saw some “freshman plays” from the redshirted freshman in a 38-17 win over Idaho.

Martinez had four fumbles, losing one, and displayed questionable judgment while throwing a third-quarter interception as he was about to be sacked.

“He had an impulse decision — can’t do that,” Watson said of Martinez’s interception. “There were some other things where I thought, at times, he could’ve played better. I’m going to look at the film and make sure that I’m right, but he had some freshman in him today.”

COTTON’S CONCERNS

Nebraska’s 360 rushing yards against Idaho were its most in a game since gaining 413 yards on the ground in the 2007 season-opener against Nevada. The Huskers have also produced consecutive 250-yard rushing games for the first time since the start of the 2006 season.

But even though NU is averaging 8.9 yards per carry, offensive line coach **BARNEY COTTON** wasn’t completely pleased with the offensive line’s play against the Vandals.

“Our stated goal this week was that we really wanted to improve our execution and, obviously, penalties and turnovers hurt that,” Cotton said. “Not getting a fourth-and-1 and not scoring when we have a first down inside the 5-yard line — those (things) kind of taint my overall outlook.”

THENARSE CRAMPS

Nebraska secondary coach **MARVIN SANDERS** said senior safety **RICKEY THENARSE** should be available for next Saturday’s game at Washington. Thenarse was helped from the field late in the third quarter after he “cramped up,” Sanders said.

That news should be a relief to Husker fans. Earlier in the game against Idaho, Thenarse proved he’s back in top form from a 2009 injury, returning an interception 47 yards for a TD to give Nebraska a 31-0 lead.

“I thought that was really, really impressive — something we had been working on all week,” Sanders said of Thenarse’s interception. “In fact, on that same play during practice he got beat and I chewed his butt about it, so for

GameNotes



PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

BEST HUSKER MOMENT? Nebraska senior defensive end **TYRONE FAHIE**, flanked by two firemen on one side and two police officers on the other, carried the American flag while leading the Cornhuskers out of the Tunnel Walk prior to Saturday's game against Idaho.

The gesture was in remembrance of the 9/11 tragedy that took place nine years earlier me, that's why it was gratifying because he learned from his mistake in practice."

NO ADDED MOTIVATION

While Idaho quarterback **NATHAN ENDERLE**, a North Platte native, may hail from the same neck of the woods as **JARED CRICK**, the junior defensive tackle said there wasn't any added motivation for him.

"He's another quarterback to me and we hate quarterbacks," said Crick, who led Nebraska with 2 1/2 sacks. "We just went out with the same mentality as we would as if it was somebody else."

Not that Crick won't be a fan of Enderle for the remainder of the season.

"It's good to see a local guy, especially from (the area) where I'm from, doing so well, being as great of a player as he is," Crick said. "I'm proud of him — I didn't

to the date on Sept. 11, 2001. The 27-year-old Fahie served two tours of duty in Iraq during his six years of active service in the U.S. Navy before joining the Nebraska football team.

"Probably one of my top Husker memories," Fahie said when asked about getting to carry the flag onto the field. "Especially on a day like this (when) the nation's kind of in mourning."

really know him, but just the fact that he's from around my area and he's doing big things, that's exciting for me."

NU SACK EXCHANGE

After getting just one sack against Western Kentucky's maximum-protection blocking scheme in the season-opener, Nebraska registered seven sacks in its victory over Idaho.

Huskers' defensive coordinator **CARL PELINI** said getting pressure on Vandals' quarterback **NATHAN ENDERLE** — a top NFL prospect — was a major reason why the Blackshirts had five interceptions against him.

"It all fits together," Pelini said. "We had great pressure up front. We had guys in (the quarterback's) face, hitting him even when he was getting the ball off and it all comes together."



WORTH NOTING

► Nebraska senior I-back **ROY HELU, Jr.** rushed for 107 yards against the Vandals, increasing his career total to 2,295 yards and moving him to No. 18 on NU's career rushing list. Helu passed **BOBBY REYNOLDS**, **DOUG DUBOSE** and **JEFF KINNEY** on the career chart Saturday.

► Nebraska senior place-kicker **ALEX HENERY** made a 24-yard field goal and converted all five of his point-after attempts to become the fifth Husker to score 300 career points. Henery now has 304 career points, trailing only **MIKE ROZIER** (312), **JOSH BROWN** (315), **ERIC CROUCH** (368) and **KRIS BROWN** (388).

► The Huskers returned two interceptions for TDs in the second quarter against Idaho, tying the school record for interception returns in a game. It was the sixth time in program history Nebraska had returned two interceptions for a TD in a game with the last time coming in 2005 against Wake Forest.

► Game captains for Nebraska were seniors **KEITH WILLIAMS**, **MIKE MCNEILL**, **ADI KUNALIC** and **ANTHONY WEST**.



RICKEY THENARSE RETURNS A 47-YARD INTERCEPTION FOR A TOUCHDOWN IN THE SECOND QUARTER. PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

There's no cure for Big Red fever.



NEBRASKA



IDAHO



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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:

- 1) Roy Helu Jr., rushed for 107 yards on seven carries.

Photo by Aaron Babcock

- 2) Quarterback Taylor Martinez fumbles on his way to the end zone. He would recover the fumble for a touchdown.

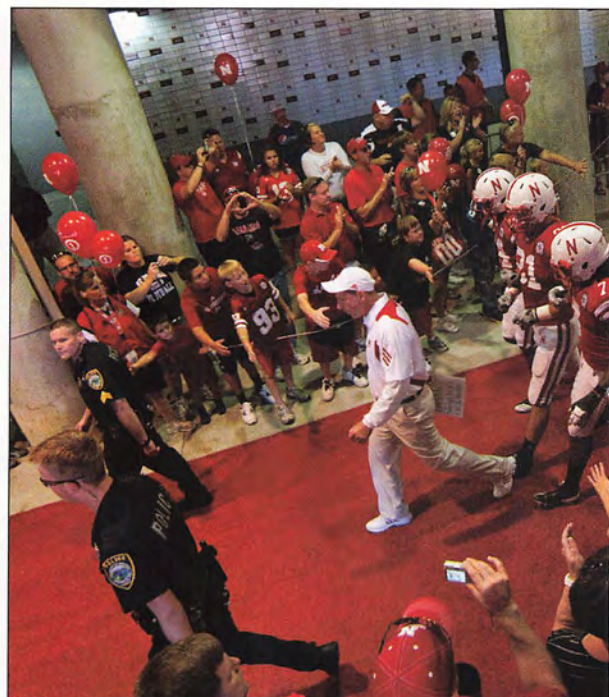
Photo by Aaron Babcock

- 3) Bo Pelini leads the Huskers toward the Memorial Stadium gates during the Tunnel Walk.

Photo by Randy Hampton.

- 4) Pierre Allen applies pressure to quarterback Nathan Enderle.

Photo by Randy Hampton.







PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

JARED CRICK

The play was a flea-flicker, intended to deceive the defense. But **JARED CRICK** wasn't deceived (see front cover). So the flea-flicker was a flop. It unfolded this way. Idaho quarterback Nathan Enderle handed the ball to running back Deonte' Jackson, who pitched to Kama Bailey on a reverse. Bailey then pitched the ball back to Enderle, whose intention was to pass. But Crick came crashing through. Bailey barely got rid of the ball before Crick shoved him aside and proceeded on to Enderle, whom he pulled down for an 18-yard loss. "Honestly, I didn't even see the quarterback," Crick said of the sack, one of the 2½ with which he was credited among six tackles. "I just focused on the receiver or the slot guy, whoever it was. I thought I had got him (Bailey), but he pitched the ball off to the quarterback, and I just had to redirect my hands and my focus to him. Luckily, I got him. I thought I was going to miss him, but I didn't."

Husker Report Card

RUSHING

Taylor Martinez and Roy Helu, Jr. both rushed for more than 100 yards and the Huskers averaged a whopping 8.8 yards per attempt. But Bo Pelini wasn't happy with sloppiness and penalties.

B-

PASSING

Not spectacular by any means. Martinez was sacked twice and threw an interception on a pass he should have thrown away, by his own admission. He also missed a wide-open Mike McNeill early.

C+

RUSHING DEFENSE

Idaho managed a net of only 60 yards rushing, in part because of 80 yards in losses on seven sacks. Even without the sacks, however, the Vandals couldn't average 4 yards per carry.

A-

PASSING DEFENSE

Seven sacks and five interceptions, two of which were returned for touchdowns; it doesn't get much better. "I told the defense they played their tails off," said Pelini.

A+

KICKING/SPECIAL TEAMS

Alex Henery averaged only 26 yards on two punts, but both were downed inside the Idaho 20-yard line. Adi Kunalic put 3-of-7 kickoffs into end zone for touchbacks.

A

THE PAUL FELL PREDICTION

NEBRASKA vs. WASHINGTON



SEPTEMBER 18, 2010
HUSKIES HANG IN THERE FOR A WHILE, BUT HUSKER DEPTH AT MOST POSITIONS FINALLY COMES BACK TO BITE 'EM...



QUICK PICKS



Aaron Babcock

(Season, Last Week)



Mike Babcock

(12-4, 5-3)



Terry Douglass

(14-2, 7-1)



Kevin Kugler

(14-2, 7-1)



Sean Callahan

(12-4, 6-2)



Matt Davison

(14-2, 7-1)

Nebraska at Washington	NU 38-17	NU 35-20	NU 24-21	NU 31-17	NU 38-20	NU 34-13
No. 14 Arkansas at No. 22 Georgia	UGA 17-14	UA 28-17	UGA 17-14	UGA 24-21	UA 31-27	UGA 27-24
No. 9 Iowa at Arizona	UI 24-10	UI 21-17	UA 28-24	UA 21-20	UI 38-31	UI 18-13
No. 5 Texas at Texas Tech	UT 24-21	UT 38-21	UT 41-21	UT 35-24	UT 24-13	UT 27-26
Baylor at No. 4 TCU	TCU 42-17	TCU 42-21	TCU 31-10	TCU 38-17	TCU 37-27	TCU 24-10
Iowa State vs. Kansas State	KSU 24-14	KSU 21-10	KSU 20-13	KSU 28-14	KSU 31-23	KSU 27-10
Clemson at Auburn	UA 17-14	UA 21-13	UA 14-9	UA 31-24	UA 27-21	UA 27-21
No. 8 Florida at Tennessee	UF 24-21	UF 35-17	UF 33-20	UF 24-14	UF 41-27	UF 12-9

GameStats

SUMMARY

SCORING

Sept. 11, 2010
Memorial Stadium • Lincoln, Neb.
Attendance: 85,732

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	Tot
Idaho	0	3	7	7	17
Nebraska	3	28	7	0	38

First Quarter

	IDAHO	NU
NU Henery 24-yard Field Goal 07:40	0	3
Drive: 14 plays 60 yds 5:30		

Second Quarter

NU Martinez 67-yard Run (Henery Kick) 12:15	0	10
Drive: 5 plays 87 yds 2:39		

NU Helu Jr. 58-yard Run (Henery Kick) 08:22	0	17
Drive: 1 plays 58 yds 0:09		

NU Gomes TD INT (Henery Kick) 06:07	0	24
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NU Thenarse TD INT (Henery Kick) 04:00	0	31
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IDAHO Trey Farquhar 34-yard Field Goal 00:00	3	31
Drive: 12 plays 60 yds 3:55		

Third Quarter

IDAHO Michael LaGrone Pass from Nathan Enderle 2-yards (Trey Farquhar Kick) 05:23	10	31
Drive: 3 plays 12 yds 1:08		

NU Martinez 20-yard Run (Henery Kick) 01:22	10	38
Drive: 9 plays 73 yds 3:55		

Fourth Quarter

IDAHO Armauni Johnson Pass from Brian Reader 19-yards (Trey Farquhar Kick) 02:31	17	38
Drive: 10 plays 98 yds 3:48		

TEAM STATS

	IDAHO	NU
Total First Downs	24	18
Rushing	9	13
Passing	11	5
Penalty	4	0
Rushing Attempts	38	41
Yards Gained Rushing	140	386
Yards Lost Rushing	80	26
Net Yards Rushing	60	360
Net Yards Passing	219	111
Passes Attempted	39	18
Passes Completed	21	13
Had Intercepted	5	1
Percent Completion	53.8%	72.2%
Yards per Attempt	5.6	6.2
Yards per Completion	10.4	8.5
Total Offensive Plays	77	59
Total Net Yards	279	471
Avg. Gain Per Play	3.6	8.0
Fumbles: No-Lost	3-1	8-3
Penalties: No-Yards	3-15	10-123
Punts: No-Yards	4-185	2-52
Avg. Per Punt	46.2	26.0
Avg. Net Punt	46.2	26.0
Punt Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Kickoff Returns: No-Yards	4-75	1-27
Interception Returns: No-Yards	1-8	5-127
Fumble Returns: No-Yards	0-0	0-0
Miscellaneous Yards	0	0
Possession Time	32:04	27:56
Third-Down Conversions	4-13	4-10
Percentage	30.8%	40.0%
Fourth-Down Conversions	0-0	0-1
Percentage	0.0%	0.0%
Sacks By: No-Yards	2-15	7-80

INDIVIDUAL STATISTICS

NEBRASKA

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
Martinez	14	177	20	157	11.2	2	67
Helu Jr.	9	107	0	107	11.9	1	58
Burkhead	9	78	1	77	8.6	0	28
Jones	3	18	0	18	6.0	0	8
Robinson	2	3	1	2	1.0	0	3
Green	2	1	0	1	0.5	0	1
Paul	2	2	4	-2	-1.0	0	2
Total	41	386	26	360	8.8	3	67

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
Martinez	17	12	70.6	1	106	0	31
Green	1	1	100.0	0	5	0	5
Total	18	13	72.2	1	111	0	31

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Burkhead	3	41	0	31
Paul	4	31	0	15
Kinnie	3	17	0	8
McNeill	2	17	0	9
Cotton	1	5	0	5
Total	13	111	0	31

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Total	0	0	0	0

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Marlowe	1	27	0	27
Total	1	27	0	27

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Henery	2	26.0	30	0	0	0	0	2
Total	2	26.0	30	0	0	0	0	2

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Henery	1	1	24	0
Total	1	1	24	0

Defense	Tac	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Gomes	6	4	10	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Amukamara	2	5	7	0-0	0-0	2	0	0
David	3	4	7	1-13	1-13	2	0	0
Crick	5	1	6	3.5-32.2	5-30	0	0	0
Thenarse	0	6	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Allen	2	3	5	1-10	1-10	1	1	0
Smith	1	4	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Steinkuler	2	3	5	1.5-14.1	5-14	0	0	0
Cassidy	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Dennard	0	3	3	0-0	0-0	1	0	0
Martin	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Randle	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
West	2	1	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Williams	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	1	0
Ebke	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Evans	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Green	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Hagg	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
May	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
McNeill	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Meredith	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Moore	1	0	1	1-13	1-13	0	0	1
Paul	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Thorell	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Whaley	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Thenarse	1	47	1	47
Gomes	1	40	1	40
West	1	23	0	23
Smith	1	17	0	17
Dennard	1	0	0	0
Total	5	127	2	47

IDAHO

Rushing	No	Gain	Lost	Net	Avg	TD	Lg
D. Jackson	11	67	0	67	6.1	0	20
P. McCarty	12	40	0	40	3.3	0	7
Kama Bailey	5	20	0	20	4.0	0	7
Troy Vital	1	3	0	3	3.0	0	3
Brian Reader	3	5	23	-18	-6.0	0	5
N. Enderle	6	5	57	-52	-8.7	0	5
Total	38	140	80	60	1.6	0	20

Passing	Att	Comp	%	Int	Yds	TD	Lg
N. Enderle	31	16	51.6	5	141	1	29
Brian Reader	8	5	62.5	0	78	1	19
Total	39	21	53.8	5	219	2	29

Receiving	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Daniel Hardy	5	75	0	29
Armauni Johnson	3	37	1	19
Eric Greenwood	3	34	0	15
Deonte Jackson	2	31	0	19
Maurice Shaw	1	13	0	13
Justin Veltung	1	11	0	11
Kama Bailey	2	6	0	8
Princeton McCarty	2	5	0	4
Taylor Elmo	1	5	0	5
Michael LaGrone	1	2	1	2
Total	21	219	2	29

Punt Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Total	0	0	0	0

Kick Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Princeton McCarty	2	31	0	19
Kama Bailey	1	23	0	23
Marsel Posey	1	21	0	21
Total	4	75	0	23

Punting	No	Avg	Lg	Blk	TB	FC	50+	In 20
Bobby Cowan	4	46.2	51	0	0	1	2	1
Total	4	46.2	51	0	0	1	2	1

Field Goals	Made	Att	Lg	Blkd
Trey Farquhar	1	2	34	0
Total	1	2	34	0

Defense	Tac	Ast	Tot	TFL	Sac	PD	FF	FR
Aaron Grymes	8	2	10	2-5	0-0	0	0	0
Homer Mauga	4	5	9	1-1	0-0	1	0	0
Robert Siavili	4	4	8	2-15	1-14	0	3	0
JoJo Dickson	2	5	7	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Gary Walker	4	2	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Isaac Butts	3	3	6	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Shiloh Keo	3	2	5	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
B. Mayowa	3	1	4	1-1	1-1	0	0	0
Kenny Patten	1	2	3	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
T. Thompson	0	2	2	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Aaron Lavarías	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
A. Johnson	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Brad Marboe	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
E. Greenwood	1	0	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Jonah Sataraka	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	1
Trey Williams	0	1	1	0-0	0-0	0	0	0

Interception Ret	No	Yds	TD	Lg
Shiloh Keo	1	8	0	8
Total	1	8	0	8



University of Washington

Huskies ride high expectations behind nation's top quarterback, second-year coach | JERRY TRICKIE

WASHINGTON has raised expectations following a five-game improvement under coach Steve Sarkisian in 2009. Eighteen starters

return, including 10 on offense as QB Jake Locker and TB Chris Polk form one of the league's best offensive backfields. The defense

has talent, but needs to replace LB Donald Butler (94 tackles, 15.5 TFL) and DE Daniel Te'o-Nesheim (37 tackles, 11.0 sacks).



HEAD COACH

Resume: A year after UW's first-ever winless campaign, Steve Sarkisian's presence was quickly noticed in his debut season as head coach. With scoring up (+13 ppg) and points allowed down (-12 ppg), Washington won five games, including beating USC, in 2009.

KNOW YOUR FOE



Chris Polk, Soph., TB: The first UW freshman to top the 1,000-yard plateau, Polk gained 1,113

rushing yards last year to rank seventh in UW history.



Mason Foster, Sr., LB: Foster was second on the team in tackles (85) in 2009 and ranked third

nationally with a school-record six forced fumbles.



Desmond Trufant, Soph., CB: Trufant ranked fifth on the team with 47 tackles, including 44 solo, in

2009 when he earned honorable-mention All-Pac-10 accolades.

2010 SCHEDULE

- 9/4 at BYU, L, 23-17
- 9/11 Syracuse, 6 p.m.
- 9/18 Nebraska, 2:30 p.m.
- 10/2 at USC, 7 p.m.
- 10/9 Arizona St.
- 10/16 Oregon St.
- 10/23 at Arizona
- 10/30 Stanford
- 11/6 at Oregon
- 11/18 UCLA, 7 p.m.
- 11/27 at California
- 12/4 at Washington St.

All times Central

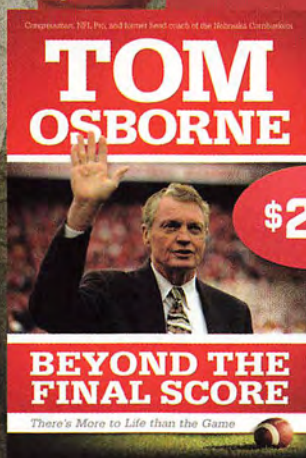
PHOTO BY MAX WAUGH/UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



All eyes are on QB Jake Locker this season. The senior is touted as the possible No. 1 pick in the 2011 NFL Draft and entered the year as a Heisman Trophy hopeful after throwing for 5,374 yards and running for 1,554 in 28 games to open his career.

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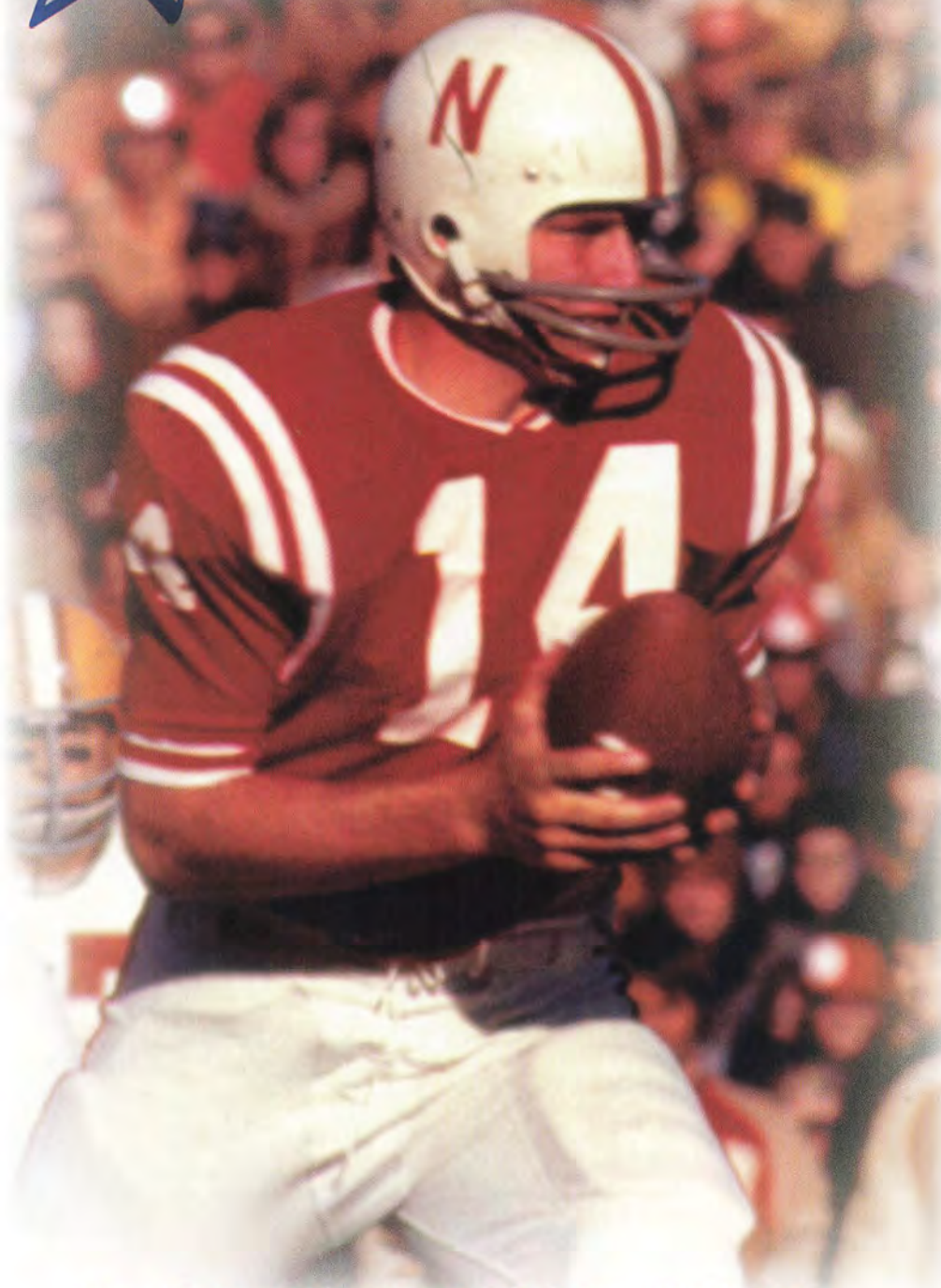
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CATCHING UP WITH

Dan Alexander

HALL-OF-FAMER ENJOYS RECONNECTING WITH NEBRASKA

THE BACK WHO still holds Nebraska's single-game rushing record in a bowl game returned to Lincoln last weekend to be inducted into the Nebraska Football Hall of Fame Class of 2010.

Dan Alexander, now firmly entrenched in his life as a husband, father and executive director of a charitable organization in Franklin, Tenn., reconnected with Nebraska and made sure he found some familiar faces.

He saw college roommate Willie Miller, former head football trainer Doak Ostergard, former pastor Jim Tuttle, fellow Hall-of-Famer Carlos Polk, fellow charitable foundation director Steve Warren and Nebraska Athletic Department staffers Dennis Leblanc, Keith Zimmer, Pat Logsdon, Chris Anderson and Kim Schellpeper.

Alexander, 32, brought his wife, Amy, and 3-year-old son, Braxton, with him to Lincoln, where they hooked up with his mom, his older brother (and wife), his older sister, and his mother-in-law for the 2010 Hall of Fame banquet.

Two days before he flew to Lincoln, Alexander, a native of Wentzville, Mo., oversaw the second annual Franktown

Open Hearts Dinner for 700 supporters of the faith-based agency that he now heads in Williamson County, Tenn., about 20 minutes south of Nashville.

"We're like a Boys Club/Girls Club or a Big Brothers/Big Sisters organization," Alexander said. "We bring spiritual and physical hope to the county's inner-city youth and teach them critical life skills."

Alexander served on the organization's board of directors for 2½ years before he was asked to step in as its temporary executive director last November.

"I brought in a good friend (and fellow pro) to be program director," Alexander said.

"The idea was to prepare him to be executive director, but he loves doing what he's doing now and wants to keep coordinating our 70 volunteers. He helps mentor and prepare them for national tests, so they can become what they're capable of becoming."

Ranking 14th on Nebraska's all-

time rushing list with 2,456 yards, Alexander still holds the single-game bowl record with a 240-yard, two-touchdown rushing performance (on just 20 carries) in a 66-17 win over Northwestern in the 2000 Alamo Bowl.

Credited with two seasons in the NFL (Tennessee and Jacksonville), Alexander also spent five years playing arena football, but he's fully settled into his new routine. "God put me in this position for a reason, and I absolutely love it," he said. "I love helping kids. I love raising funds for their development. Football produced some of the best times of my life. The experiences, the roadblocks and even the disappointments led me to where I am today, so I can do what I feel I am called to do."

Twice Nebraska's Lifter of the Year,

RANKING 14TH ON NEBRASKA'S ALL-TIME RUSHING LIST WITH 2,456 YARDS, ALEXANDER STILL HOLDS THE SINGLE-GAME BOWL RECORD WITH A 240-YARD, TWO-TOUCHDOWN RUSHING PERFORMANCE (ON JUST 20 CARRIES) IN A 66-17 WIN OVER NORTHWESTERN IN THE 2000 ALAMO BOWL.

Alexander holds one more Nebraska record that few know about. "He came back from ACL surgery in three months," Ostergard said. "Tough player...good leader. That's why he was a captain."

by Randy York

IN THE Red Zone



AARON BABCOCK

CENTER OF ATTENTION

Mike Caputo doesn't mind the blue-collar anonymity. It's part of the job.

"I think you look across the country, offensive linemen gotta be more blue-collar, you know what I mean? Not the limelight for us," the Huskers' junior center said.

"And I think we want it that way, so it works out."

If there are degrees of anonymity, you could say Caputo was even more anonymous the past two seasons because his role was backing up Jacob Hickman. Plus, at 6-foot-1, he's the shortest

of Nebraska's offensive linemen. So he can get lost among those lining up around him.

Caputo is short as most major-college centers go. But his height doesn't seem to be an issue. "I got no problem with shorter centers," said offensive line coach Barney Cotton.

"I know when I tried to play center at almost 6-6, you play against a 6-1 noseguard, that guy's always hitting you in the Adam's apple with his forehead. So being short at center is not a disadvantage in the running game. You just have to have great feet to be a good pass-protector."

Caputo "can win with his feet in that area," Cotton said. "Plus, he's very smart."

He's also very strong, and getting stronger.

Caputo weighs 275 pounds, and that doesn't fluctuate much. Even during the hottest days of fall camp, he didn't drop significant weight.

He's not particularly heavy for a major-college center, either. But

"I don't see myself wanting to get any bigger, to be honest," he said.

"I want to get stronger and more muscular. But actual weight, I'd like to stay the same. I feel better. I move better."

His greatest asset is "quickness, I think, if I had to pick one," said Caputo.

He played in only six games last season, and seven as a redshirted freshman. But "he was ready to play last year, and when he was asked to play, he played well," Cotton said.

That's reflected in the fact he earned a scholarship before his sophomore season.

"I was proud to be a walk-on," Caputo said. "I still identify as one."

NEBRASKA'S ALL-AMERICAN CENTERS

1932 LAWRENCE ELY

1937 CHARLES BROCK

1949 TOM NOVAK

1974-75 RIK BONNESS**

1977 TOM DAVIS

1981-82 DAVE RIMINGTON***

1984 MARK TRAYNOWICZ**

1985 BILL LEWIS

1988-89 JAKE YOUNG**

1995 AARON GRAHAM

1996 AARON TAYLOR*

2000 DOMINIC RAIOLA*

(* UNANIMOUS, # CONSENSUS)



DAVE RIMINGTON

A RICH TRADITION

Nebraska has a rich offensive line tradition, and particularly at center, with 12 having earned All-America recognition, including two-time honorees Rik Bonness, Dave Rimington and Jake Young. Aaron Taylor also was a two-time All-American, at center in 1996 and guard in 1997.

Oh yes, Taylor stood 6-foot-1, and was regarded by most schools as too short to play in the offensive line at the major-college level.

"The tradition here is strong," said Mike Caputo. "You just hope that you can fit in."

Despite his limited experience going into this season, Caputo's name was among 37 on the 2010 Rimington Trophy Fall Watch List, released in late August.

RICK BONNES



Eyes on game-breakers

Nebraska coaches continue to comb recruiting field for playmakers in the backfield. | SEAN STEVENS



BRAYLON HEARD

With 2010 signee **BRAYLON HEARD** on track to join the team second semester, it appears that Nebraska will take one running back in the 2011 class. The Huskers' top target is Rivals' No. 3-ranked prospect **AARON GREEN** (5-11, 191) of San Antonio, Texas. Green pared his list to Nebraska, Florida State, California and Texas in July and has not wavered from that. He will visit Florida State the weekend of Sept. 18 and Nebraska the weekend of Oct. 16.

Nebraska appears to be in very good shape with Green, as his other top suitors all have running backs committed for 2011. Florida State's group

includes Rivals' No. 3-ranked overall player **JAMES WILDER, Jr.** and Texas has Rivals' No. 2-ranked running back **MALCOLM BROWN**. California has two commits and is pushing hard for the top-ranked running back in California, **BRENDON BIGELOW**.

The chances seem to increase daily for Nebraska to get Green's pledge.

DB A PRIORITY

Defensive back remains a priority, and the top-ranked player Nebraska is pursuing is Wayne Lyons (6-0, 190) of Fort Lauderdale, Fla. Lyons has scheduled a trip to Lincoln for the Missouri game Oct. 30 weekend and will also visit Notre Dame

and UCLA in September. Florida seems to lead, though.

"I've been to Florida the most, so I'd have to say them," Lyons said. "The players are real cool. They're tight together, like a family."

DENHAM TO VISIT?

Wide receiver Anthony Denham (6-6, 215) of East Los Angeles (Calif.) College tallied 49 receptions for 1,189 yards and 16 touchdowns as a freshman, which caught the attention of schools such as Alabama, Georgia and Oregon. Nebraska is in with an offer, too, and Denham, who claims to be wide open, is considering a visit to Lincoln.

UNOFFICIAL

Evan Boehm (6-3, 290) of Lee's Summit, Mo., visited unofficially for the Huskers' season-opener. Boehm is a 2012 offensive line prospect. The junior has offers from Iowa, Missouri and Oklahoma along with Nebraska.

CHANGE OF HEART?

Rice commitment Givens Mordi Price (6-4, 278) of Houston, Texas will visit officially for the Sept. 25 game with South Dakota State and could fill out the Huskers' offensive line class if he commits.

COMMIT Q&A



RYAN KLACHKO

At a glance: Springfield (Ill.) Sacred Heart standout Ryan Klachko is among four offensive linemen commits for

Nebraska in its class of 2011. Huskers Illustrated caught up with Klachko in this week's commit spotlight.

CALLAHAN: Being an Illinois guy, how excited were you for Nebraska's move to the Big Ten?

KLACHKO: To say I was excited might have been an understatement. I really looked forward to playing the Big 12 teams, but coming to the Big Ten is awesome. It was cool to see who we are going to be playing. Where I live now I'm relatively close to every single Big Ten school.

CALLAHAN: What's the biggest way life has changed for you being a Nebraska commit?

KLACHKO: It's almost like you are part of a family now and you are coming into a family. Everybody knows you and everybody knows your name and everybody knows your face. You represent so much more when you are on the field and off the field when you are a Husker.

CALLAHAN: Where's your favorite place to get a good steak dinner?

KLACHKO: There's a place out here called Alexander's Steak House and it's awesome. You get this huge steak, but the cool thing is they have this grill inside of the steak house, so you actually get to grill your steak inside. It's really fun.

CALLAHAN: Favorite movie of all time?

KLACHKO: It's actually not even a well-known movie. It's called the "Peaceful Warrior." It's a really good motivational movie that can really help you about life.

CALLAHAN: What's the best show on TV right now?

KLACHKO: "Family Guy" or "The Office," without a doubt. I live for shows like that. Anything funny like that I'll watch it. You can't be serious all the time.

CALLAHAN: If you could attend one sporting event as a fan, what would it be and why?

KLACHKO: Probably watching the Red Sox in the World Series because I'm a diehard Rex Sox fan.

by Sean Callahan

2011 Husker Commit List

- ★★ AARYN BOUZOS, DB, 5-11, 185, La Mirada, Calif. (La Mirada)
- ★★★ DANIEL DAVIE, DB, 6-0, 181, Beatrice, Neb.
- ★★★★ RYAN KLACHKO, OL, 6-4, 287, Springfield, Ill. (Sacred Heart Griffin)
- ★★★★ TEVIN MITCHEL, DB, 6-0, 175, Mansfield, Texas (Legacy)
- ★★★★ TYLER MOORE, OL, 6-6, 290, Clearwater, Fla. (Countryside)
- ★★★★ RYNE REEVES, OL, 6-3, 300, Crete, Neb. (Crete)
- ★★ NIKLAS SADE, K, 6-3, 190, Raleigh, NC (Wakefield)
- ★★ DAVID SANTOS, LB, 6-0, 193, Klein, Texas (Klein Collins)
- NR DAIMION STAFFORD, DB, 6-1, 210, Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. (Chaffey CC)
- ★★★★ BUBBA STARLING, QB, 6-4, 193, Gardner, Kan. (Gardner Edgerton)
- ★★★★ ZACH STERUP, OL, 6-8, 260, Hastings, Neb. (St. Cecilia)
- ★★★★ JAMAL TURNER, QB, 6-1, 173, Arlington, Texas (Sam Houston)
- ★★ KEVIN WILLIAMS, DT, 6-2, 275, Holland, Ohio (Springfield)

2011 Unofficial Offer List

James Adeyanju

DE, 6-2, 250
Chicago, Ill.

Jonathan Aiken

CB, 5-11, 185
Hollywood, Fla.

Antoine Arnold

WR, 6-3, 180
Temecula, Calif.

Jeremy Cash

S, 6-1, 185
Plantation, Fla.

Curt Evans

WR, 6-0, 173
Hollywood, Fla.

Christian French

Athlete, 6-6, 218
Cedar Rapids, IA

Aaron Green

RB, 5-10, 191
San Antonio, TX

Quentin Griffin

DE, 6-3, 230
Rayville, La.

Jalen Grimbale

DE, 6-4, 255
Las Vegas, Nev.

Jesse Hayes

DE, 6-4, 230
Cincinnati, Ohio

Christian Heyward

DT, 6-2, 269
San Diego, Calif.

Cyrus Hobbi

OL, 6-4, 285
Scottsdale, Ariz.

Charles Jackson

CB, 5-11, 180
Klein, Texas

Mickey Johnson

DT, 6-1, 310
Covington, La.

Lake Koa-Kaiai

DE, 6-4, 250
Honolulu, Hawaii

Keith Lewis

LB, 6-0, 194
Lakeland, Fla.

Wayne Lyons

Safety, 6-0, 190
Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

*Dexter Moody

LB, 6-2, 210
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

*Malcolm Moulton

WR, 5-11, 185
Fort Scott (Kan.) CC

Patrick Onwuasor

WR, 6-2, 190
Inglewood, Calif.

Todd Peat, Jr.

DT, 6-3, 300
Tempe, Ariz.

Givens Mordi Price

OL, 6-4, 278
Houston, Texas

Miles Shuler

WR, 5-11, 173
Long Branch, NJ

Joel Willis

Athlete, 5-10, 180
Garden Grove, CA

DeVante Wilson

DE, 6-4, 230
Corona, Calif.

** Junior College prospect*

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DEEP IN THE HEART OF TEXAS

BY JOHN TALMAN
RECRUITING PUBLISHER,
HUSKERSILLUSTRATED.COM

Recruiting visits stacked for Texas game

PLAY TO YOUR STRENGTHS.

That's what Nebraska coaches are doing with official-visit weekends this year.

In the last 15 years when recruiting coverage was more than a signing-day summary of what happened over the last 12 months, you've seen Husker coaching staffs hold huge visit-weekends in September. After all, the weather is warmer than it usually is in October and November. Plus, the excitement of the new season counteracts a weak non-conference opponent.

This year, everything about Nebraska's recruiting success has broken the mold.

There is that fully loaded commitment list that is already at 13. Looking back, you'd be hard pressed to find a previous class arrive at that total before August was over. Needless to say, you don't have a ton of room to play with.

The staff is fighting against the limits of the 85-total scholarship limit.

Not only do you have fewer than 20 seniors graduating from your roster, but you're already thinking about trying to add balance to a 2012 class that is projecting very low right now. If you can balance that by not going overboard with this group, it's all the better.

You most certainly don't want to bring

in targets who you feel could commit on the visit that you're not completely sold on. This is especially true when you're waiting on bigger targets, who won't be taking their trip to Lincoln until much later in the fall.

That and well, there is one weekend every fan and recruit has their eye on.

Yes, we're talking about Oct. 16 when the Huskers face the Longhorns.

It isn't any secret that the staff is trying to bring in every top remaining target for that weekend – not a secret when you talk to every viable target on the board and they're either set or trying to get plans in line to be in Lincoln that Saturday.

Here is the list for those keeping track at home: 4-star defensive linemen James Adeyanju from Chicago Curie and Todd Peat from Tempe (Ariz.) Corona Del Sol. Highly regarded Ohio defensive end Jesse Hayes has narrowed his list; Nebraska is on it, and he'll be in Lincoln that weekend.

Also, 4-star Ohio State commit, safety Jeremy Cash, will be in town. Arguably the top offensive target on the board since the beginning, running back Aaron Green, will be in Memorial Stadium to see the Huskers and Longhorns do battle in person. With likely one spot remaining on the offensive line in this class, 4-star Cyrus

Hobbi making the trip from Arizona for the big game weekend just adds to this impressive list.

Here is the scary part about that weekend: That's not even including basically all of the commitments who plan to be in town for that game. I mean after all, it can't hurt to have prospects already on board with your program sell it a bit to those undecided.

Not to mention, this weekend will likely get even bigger. For those that can't make it for the Texas weekend, there is a clear No. 2 game this staff is putting emphasis on – Oct. 30 against Missouri.

Four-star defensive tackle Mickey Johnson from Covington (La.) St. Paul will be in town with one of the nation's top safety prospects Wayne Lyons that weekend. Those are just two coming in town for the Big 12 North showdown. Like the Texas game weekend, expect that list to grow as well.

So while we probably won't see a steady stream of official visitors spread out over the opening home games this season, it's clear the staff is putting priority on the two biggest weekends. That's after a very successful spring and summer of hard work.

They're in position both in recruiting and with the program's direction, it's time to get picky. **N**

Licht proving to be dangerous weapon

Lindsey Licht finally healthy after undergoing three surgeries following sophomore season. | BOB HAMAR



LINDSEY
LICHT

PHOTO BY SCOTT

IT WAS A LONG ROAD BACK FOR LINDSEY LICHT. IT ALL BEGAN AFTER HER SOPHOMORE SEASON, WHEN SHE

had surgery on both feet and an elbow at the same time. The foot surgeries even landed her in a wheelchair for a while.

Licht, a 6-foot-5 senior rightside hitter for Nebraska, looked pretty healthy last season when she turned into one of the Big 12's most effective

attackers. She hit .350 with 3.32 kills per set in the last 14 matches of 2009.

But she still wasn't 100-percent healthy. That didn't happen until January of this year.

"It's been a long road of battling injuries, but I'm finally 100 percent," Licht said. "I don't have

any aches and pains. It's amazing."

Licht took advantage of that good health the first weekend of the season when she was named the Big 12 Conference offensive player of the week. She earned those honors getting 32 kills on just 48 swings for a .542 hitting percentage in two matches at the Runza/AVCA Showcase in Omaha.

She had 14 kills for a .650 percentage in the opening win over Kentucky, then a career-high 18 in a five-set loss to then-No. 13 Florida.

"It's awesome," Licht said of the Big 12 award. "It's amazing to get that, but I couldn't have gotten it without Lauren (Cook) setting. I couldn't have gotten it without the passers, so it's really a team effort. I'm really honored to get it, but also I know I didn't get it by myself."

Nebraska coach John Cook wants to see Licht develop the consistency she needs to become a great player for the Huskers.

"She got off to a good start," Cook said. "I want to see her do it every night. That's the challenge to become a great player. Can they do it week after week after week? But she's worked hard, she's put herself in position."



OUTSIDE ROTATION

Cook didn't see the production he hoped to have from outside hitters **TARA MUELLER**, Hannah Werth and Gina Mancuso early on. After six matches, Werth was hitting .293, Mancuso .250 and Mueller .132.

Cook said those three may continue rotating until a couple of them develop the consistency he wants to see.

"They're still passing and hitting in a lot of tough situations," Cook said. "That can lead to more errors. That's where they have to manage the game better, when we're out of system, when it's crazy and it's a long rally."

TRYING TOO HARD

Cook saw some great things from his team this spring and again on the trip to China early this summer. But early in the regular season, those great things weren't happening for the Huskers.

Cook doesn't really think the reason was nerves. He said more likely it came from simply trying too hard.

"Sometimes you put a lot of expectations on yourself and you try too hard," he said. "The message I told them (last week) was you just need to come out and be good. You don't have to be great every play. Sometimes when you're trying to be great every play, your muscles get tight and you try too hard. You have to find that fine line of being relaxed."

2010 Schedule

RUNZA/AVCA SHOWCASE

SAT, AUG 28	KENTUCKY	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	W, 3-0
SUN, AUG 29	FLORIDA	QWEST CENTER OMAHA	L, 2-3
TUE, AUG 31	CREIGHTON	OMAHA, NEB.	W, 3-0

BYU TOURNAMENT

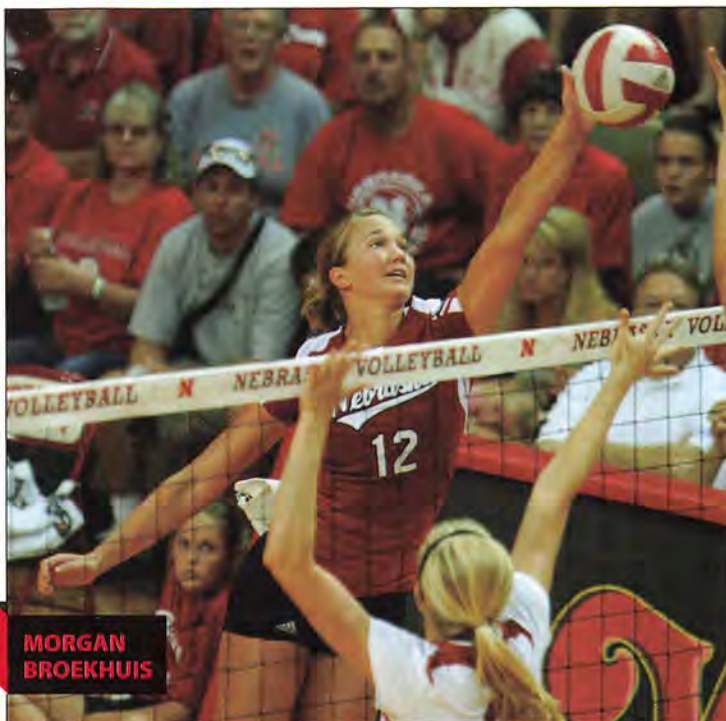
FRI, SEP 03	BYU	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-1
SAT, SEP 04	CAL POLY	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0
SAT, SEP 04	IDAHO STATE	PROVO, UTAH	W, 3-0

AMERITAS PLAYERS CHALLENGE

THU, SEP 09	DAYTON	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
FRI, SEP 10	W. MICHIGAN	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, SEP 11	ILLINOIS	DEVANEY SPORTS CENTER	7 P.M.

BIG 12 CONFERENCE PLAY

WED, SEP 15	IOWA STATE *	AMES, IOWA	7 P.M.
SAT, SEP 18	COLORADO *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
WED, SEP 22	KANSAS *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, SEP 25	BAYLOR *	WACO, TEXAS	7 P.M.
WED, SEP 29	OKLAHOMA *	NORMAN, OKLA.	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 02	TEXAS *	NU COLISEUM	3:30 P.M.
WED, OCT 06	MISSOURI *	COLUMBIA, MO.	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 09	TEXAS A&M *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 16	KANSAS STATE *	MANHATTAN, KAN.	7 P.M.
WED, OCT 20	TEXAS TECH *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, OCT 23	MISSOURI *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, OCT 27	TEXAS *	AUSTIN, TEXAS	8 P.M.
SAT, OCT 30	IOWA STATE *	NU COLISEUM	TBA
WED, NOV 03	KANSAS *	LAWRENCE, KAN.	6:30 P.M.
SAT, NOV 06	TEXAS TECH *	LUBBOCK, TEXAS	6:30 P.M.
WED, NOV 10	KANSAS STATE *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 13	COLORADO *	BOULDER, COLO.	TBA
WED, NOV 17	OKLAHOMA *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
WED, NOV 24	BAYLOR *	NU COLISEUM	7 P.M.
SAT, NOV 27	TEXAS A&M *	COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS	TBA



MORGAN BROEKHUIS

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

The second weekend didn't go nearly as well for Licht. She had eight kills but hit just .045 in a win over BYU, then followed with eight kills and a .333 percentage against Cal Poly before ending the tournament with three kills and a negative hitting percentage against Idaho State.

It wasn't that long ago that Licht's volleyball future was in doubt. Cook wasn't sure if she was ever going to be able to play again after the surgeries.

"People always forget where she was a year and a half ago after two major surgeries and in a wheelchair," Cook said. "It takes a while to come back from stuff like that. We recruited her to become a dominant player, but I want to see her have the mentality to do this every week."

Licht is confident that she can put together a big senior season for a Husker team that has national championship aspirations. She always knew that she had the ability, but the injuries her first two years in the Nebraska program kept her from developing to her

potential.

In the end, though, Licht may have found some positives from her physical struggles.

"I was always confident, but I also learned a lot about myself," she said. "That was a huge struggle, but I learned I can fight through it. I had the support of my teammates and my coaches. I've managed to come out on top."

Cook is building the offense around Licht and 6-5 freshman Morgan Broekhuis. The two 6-5 left-handed rightside hitters may well be the first such pair in college volleyball history. That's why Cook elected to go to the 6-2 system with Lauren Cook and Sydney

Anderson sharing the duties as setter.

"I like it," Licht said of the 6-2. "It's a great system. We have great setters. We're balanced. When Sydney is in, when Lauren's in, the points are balanced and that's what Coach says you need. You need to have all six rotations equal and that's what we are."

"Having Morgan and I up there, a 6-5 block, it's rare."

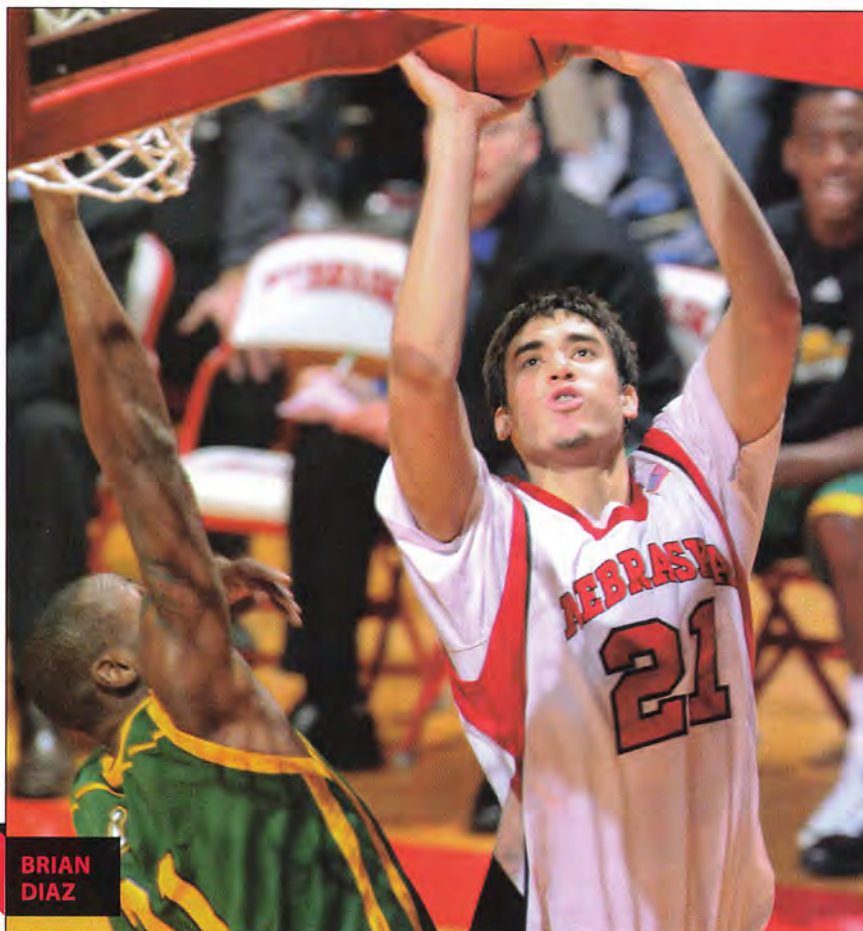
32

Number of kills for Licht in opening weekend

Around THE Horn

I BRIAN ROSENTHAL

THIS ISSUE MEN'S BASKETBALL WOMEN'S BASKETBALL SOCCER



BRIAN DIAZ

PHOTO BY SCOTT BRUHN

LEADING OFF

Brian Diaz says he can feel that he's gained significant weight in the off-season. He just can't tell it when he looks in the mirror.

Where his 248 pounds went, nobody is for certain.

"I mean, he wears those big shirts all the time, so you can't really tell if he's

gotten bigger or not," teammate Toney McCray joked.

Looks aren't everything, though. Diaz can tell he's bigger when he's on the basketball court, and that's the most important thing.

"My upper body feels stronger," said Diaz, a 6-foot-11 sophomore center from Caguas,

Puerto Rico. "I can use more of my shoulders in the post now when I try to post. I can push a little bit more, use my shoulders a little bit more. I feel a little bit bigger."

Contrast that to last season when Diaz said he was too light and was getting pushed around inside.



SOCCER

Senior goalkeeper **TARA MACDONALD** is making the most of her time at Nebraska.

A transfer from Oklahoma, Macdonald is just beginning her second season with the Huskers, but is already in the top 10 of the school charts in all-time wins and saves.

Macdonald sat out the 2008 season but earned the No. 1 goalkeeping job last season and started seven games despite battling foot injuries. She ranked fourth in the Big 12 Conference with 3.75 saves per game and had a .763 save percentage.

Macdonald, who's earned a Big 12 defensive player of the week honor already this season, had a season-high nine saves in Nebraska's 3-1 victory over Indiana. That pushed her into a tie for ninth on the school's saves chart with 61.

"I didn't like it at all," he said. "I was mad. Nobody likes to get pushed around."

So Diaz spent extra time in the weight room in the off-season, and he's also been more aware of the importance of eating. Last year, Diaz said he'd be so tired after games or practices, he'd hit the sack instead of the training table.

As a result, his weight dipped to 217 pounds during the season.

"I think the main thing," Diaz said, "is to keep eating and drinking the shakes and all that."

Diaz isn't the only Husker who's bigger. The 6-6 McCray weighs 211 pounds, the biggest he said he's ever been. Sophomore Brandon Ubel, a 6-10 forward, weighs 240 pounds, up 15 pounds from where he ended last season. Center Christopher Niemann is at 271 pounds.

"As far as last year, I know it was a concern for us to get in the weight room and get a lot stronger," McCray said.

MARIC ON AUSTRALIAN TEAM

Former Nebraska men's basketball center **ALEKS MARIC** played for Australia in the 2010 FIBA World Championship, helping his team advance to the Eight Finals, where it lost to



Slovenia.

The 6-foot-11 Maric averaged 9.2 points and 4.3 rebounds in six games, scoring in double figures three times. That included a 23-point, 9-rebound effort in Australia's first game against Jordan.

Maric recently signed with Panathinaikos in Greece but played last season for Partizan Belgrade and was named to the 2009-10 All-Euroleague first team. He averaged 15 points and eight rebounds, leading the Serbian club to the Adriatic League and Serbian A League championships.

GRIFFIN EARNS ROOKIE HONOR

Former Nebraska All-American Kelsey Griffin earned a spot on the five-player WNBA All-Rookie Team.

Griffin, the No. 3 overall pick in the 2010 WNBA

draft, averaged 1.1 assists per game.

Griffin plans to continue her professional career by playing in Hungary during the WNBA off-season.

GYMNASTICS

John Robinson is returning to the Nebraska men's gymnastics team as an assistant coach for the 2010-11 season.

Robinson, a four-year letterman for the Huskers from 2007-10, replaces Phil Cahoy Sr., who assisted the Huskers for the 2009-10 season in Chuck Chmelka's first year as Nebraska's head coach.

A native of North Carolina, Robinson competed in the all-around and was named Nebraska's Hartung Award winner his senior season, when he earned a spot in the finals at the 2010 Winter Cup.

Robinson earned his bachelor's degree in marketing from Nebraska in 2010.

3

Kelsey Griffin was the 3rd pick in the WNBA draft.

Draft, played a major role off the bench and as a part-time starter for the Connecticut Sun in her first season in the league. The 6-2 forward from Eagle River, Alaska, averaged 4.4 points, 4.7 rebounds and

CROSS COUNTRY

Another year, another sweep of the Creighton/UNO Classic for the Nebraska cross country teams.

Lara Crofford won the

individual title for the women, and Jesse Adams won the men's race in the Huskers first meet of the season.

The men won the event for the third consecutive year, and the women have won five of the last six.

Crofford led a 1-2-3-5-6 finish for the Huskers with a time of 18:11 in the 5K race. The Huskers' Ashley Miller, Erica Hamik, Blaire Dinsdale and Jen Webers followed Crofford.

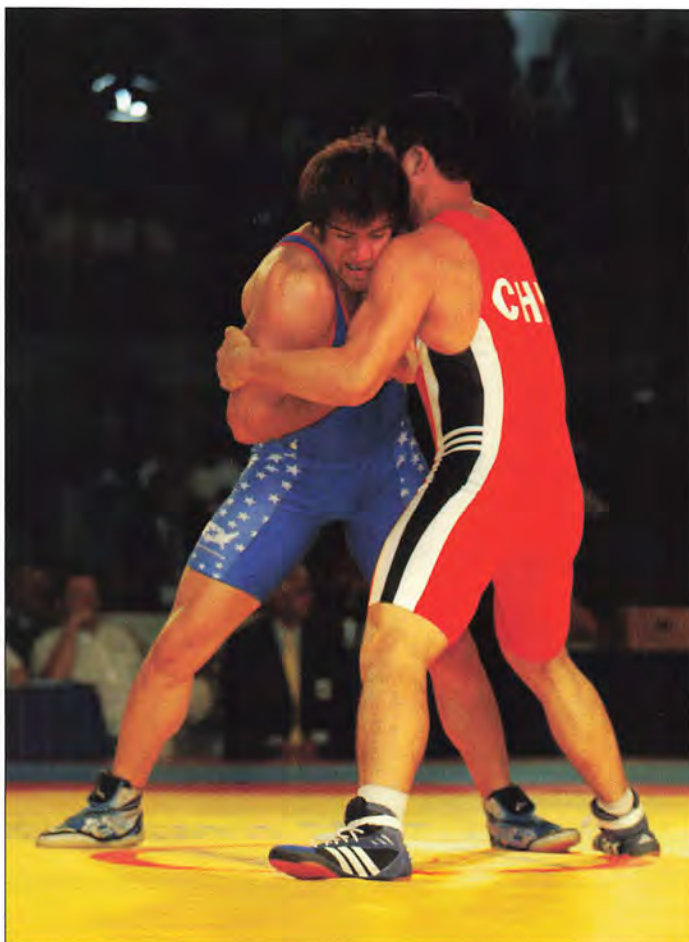
Nebraska placed six runners in the top 15 of the men's race. Adams's time in the 8K race was

26:28. A junior from Ogallala, Adams was joined in the top 15 by Trevor Vidlak (3rd), Tommy Brinn (8th), Connor Gibson (9th), Parker Schoen (10th) and Jarren Heng (11th).

WRESTLING

Former Husker wrestler **JUSTIN RUIZ** is representing the United States in Moscow at the World Championships.

Ruiz, who lives in Idaho, will be competing at 96 kilograms (211.5 pounds) in the Greco-Roman competition and is seeking his second world medal. He earned a bronze in 2005.



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FROM THE ARCHIVES

UP AND OVER – Tom Rathman (No. 26) was a state high jump champion at Grand Island (Neb.) High School, evidence of his athleticism. He was the fans' pick at fullback in on-line voting for Nebraska's all-century team, and with good reason. He was a first-team All-Big Eight selection as a senior in 1985, when he set the Huskers' single-season rushing record for a fullback with 881 yards and eight touchdowns on 118 carries. He averaged 7.47 yards per carry that season and 6.48 yards per carry for his career, the most among fullbacks who rushed for 1,000 or more yards. Rathman ranks fifth in career rushing by a fullback, with 1,425 yards. He carried 220 times during his career and was tackled for only 4 yards in losses.



(7) NEBRASKA 27, (2) WASHINGTON 14

Sept. 20, 1997 • at Husky Stadium

Nebraska	14	7	0	6	—	27
Washington	0	7	7	0	—	14

(N) Scott Frost 34 run (Kris Brown kick)
 (N) Frost 30 run (Brown kick)
 (N) Ahman Green 4 run (Brown kick)
 (W) Cameron Cleeland 12 pass Marques Tuiasosopo (Randy Jones kick)
 (W) Mike Reed 2 pass Tuiasosopo (Jones kick)
 (N) Brown 20 field goal
 (N) Brown 31 field goal

Attendance: 74,023



GAMESREMEMBERED

Frosty Reception

Scott Frost leads Huskers to 384 rushing yards against Washington's top-ranked rush defense

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a week makes.

The previous Saturday at Memorial Stadium, Cornhusker quarterback Scott Frost's return in the second quarter of a game against Central Florida had elicited boos.

In a pre-determined plan, Tom Osborne replaced Frost, the starter, with sophomore Frankie London, for one series. London responded by directing a touchdown drive to give Nebraska a 14-10 lead against a heavy underdog in just its second season of NCAA Division I-A competition.

Frost came back for the next series and was greeted with the boos.

The crowd's ire was fueled by the fact that Daunte Culpepper-led Central Florida had regained the lead by halftime, 17-14.

The Huskers prevailed, however, with Frost at the helm, 38-24.

With that as a backdrop, Nebraska traveled to Seattle and upset Washington.

The Huskies went into the game ranked No. 1 nationally in rushing defense. But Osborne had studied tape of Washington's 54-20 loss to Notre Dame the previous season and noted the Huskies had been vulnerable to inside runs. So that's how

Nebraska attacked, with traps, isos and dives.

The Huskers rushed 384 yards. They controlled the clock. And had Frost not been credited with two 3-yard losses by taking a knee in the final seconds, Nebraska would have had three 100-yard rushers. Fullback Joel Makovicka and I-back Ahman Green each rushed for 129 yards.

Frost, who finished with 97 rushing yards and two touchdowns, graded 1.97 on a 2.0 scale. Osborne said he couldn't recall a Husker quarterback ever taking at least 60 snaps and grading that high.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

- ▶ Noise had been a problem at Husky Stadium in 1992, when Nebraska lost 29-14. So crowd noise was pumped into Memorial Stadium during practices for the 1997 game there. In addition, the Huskers wore earplugs and used fewer audibles on offense.
- ▶ Frost's second touchdown came on a 30-yard draw play from a shotgun formation, patterned after a play Central Florida's Culpepper had run the week before.
- ▶ The victory was Nebraska's first against a higher-ranked opponent on the road since 1985, when the No. 9 Huskers won at No. 5 Oklahoma State 34-24.

CROSSWORD & TRIVIA

ACROSS

6. First freshman to start at quarterback in season-opener
8. Leading tackler vs. Western Kentucky
12. True freshman defensive back who played in opener
14. Walk-on defensive back awarded scholarship week of opener
19. Washington campus location
23. Washington quarterback
25. 2009 Outland Trophy winner
26. Washington school color
28. Wears No. 84
29. Washington nickname
31. Former Washington head coach
32. Opponent in NU's Big Ten opener in 2011
33. Nov. 6 opponent

DOWN

1. 1971 Outland Trophy winner
2. Intercepted pass vs. Western Kentucky
3. Threw touchdown pass vs. Western Kentucky
4. Oct. 30 opponent
5. Wears No. 25
7. Defensive ends coach
9. Network for NU-Washington telecast
10. Scored final NU touchdown vs. Western Kentucky
11. Defeated Washington in season-opener
13. Football play-by-play voice
15. Had NU's only sack in opener
16. True freshman offensive lineman who played in opener
17. Caught touchdown pass vs. Western Kentucky
18. 1972 Outland Trophy winner
20. Network for NU-Kansas State telecast
21. Wears No. 3 (defense)
22. 2011 non-conference road opponent
24. Wears No. 81
27. Washington head coach
30. True freshman wide receiver who played in opener

Answers will appear in the Sept. 25 issue



HUSKERNUTZ



YOU'VE BEEN WEARING YOUR LUCKY HUSKER OUTFIT TO GAMES SINCE 1971. AND IT STILL FITS. MOSTLY.

BRAIN BUSTER



One of the following Cornhuskers was not a three-time, first-team all-conference selection: George Sauer, Jerry Minnick, Willie Harper, Dave Rimington, Marc Munford, Will Shields, Ralph Brown. Can you name him?

Answer will appear in our next issue

AUGUST ANSWER: Clete Pillen (1974-76)

SEPTEMBER 11 SOLUTION





THE FINAL WORD

BY MIKE BABCOCK

Offense draws “you-know-what-chewing”

HAD YOU MISSED the game but somehow wandered into Bo Pelini's interview afterward, you might have concluded that Nebraska had just lost—or, at least, been seriously tested.

No way would you have guessed the Cornhuskers had rolled up 471 yards of offense and put the game out of reach by halftime with a 28-point second quarter.

Not even halfway into his nearly 6-minute post-game session, Pelini was red-faced with passion.

“There are no excuses,” he said, his voice rising. “We play one way, and that’s execute. That’s to play to a high, extremely high, standard. I don’t want to hear anything about defense or did they relax? No. That’s a bunch of BS. That isn’t what we’re all about around this place.”

He repeated “extremely high standard,” adding, “and you have to live up to the standard if you walk out on that field and you’re one of 11. If you’re not, it’s time to go find another program. Our attention to detail needs to pick up. Our attitude needs to pick up. Our standards need to pick up.”

No, the coach was definitely not a happy fella.

What he told the offense in the locker room afterward “wasn’t very good,” redshirted freshman quarterback Taylor Martinez said with a rueful smile.

I-back Roy Helu, Jr. declined to repeat

Pelini’s words. “I probably wouldn’t share that even if we were behind closed doors,” said Helu.

The offense “just got a good you-know-what chewing,” Pelini said.

He was particularly perturbed by eight fumbles, three of them lost; an interception and 10 penalties. “We looked like an undisciplined football team and a careless football team,” he said.

Here’s a sampling of specifics, in no particular order:

Martinez ran 34 yards to the Idaho 4-yard line on his first carry. But a personal foul penalty cost Nebraska 15 yards and the Huskers eventually settled for an Alex Henery field goal.

Martinez, attempting to avoid a sack, threw the interception. “That was totally my fault,” he said. “I did not see that (line)backer. It was a screen, and I tried to make a big play out of it.

“But obviously it didn’t work very well.”

Obviously, he should have thrown the ball away.

Nebraska also drew another personal foul penalty on the play, half the distance to the goal, giving Idaho a first down at the Husker 12-yard line. Three plays later Idaho scored.

After Anthony West’s interception and 23-yard return gave Nebraska the ball at the Idaho 21-yard line, the Huskers had

fourth-and-1 at the 12. One yard to go. In came two tight ends and two fullbacks. I-back Rex Burkhead got the carry and was tackled for a 1-yard loss.

Four minutes later, on second-and-goal at the Idaho 1-yard line, following Terrence Moore’s recovery of a fumble forced by Pierre Allen, Dontrayevous Robinson lost a fumble.

On the first play of the second half, wide receiver Niles Paul took a direct snap in the Wildcat formation for a play he had practiced all week. He would fake a handoff and run.

“As I was pulling it (the ball) back, I looked and was like, ‘OK, we’re gone,’” said Paul.

The play was set up for a big gain, what offensive coordinator Shawn Watson called a “breakout run.”

The problem was, “I pulled the ball back and it didn’t come back,” Paul said.

Idaho recovered the fumble at the Husker 16-yard line but couldn’t convert it into points.

Despite the mistakes, what Watson described as sloppiness, the Huskers handled Idaho with relative ease, thanks to an outstanding defensive effort and an explosive if mistake-plagued offense. But such sloppiness won’t play well at Washington. “We’ll get that fixed this week,” said Pelini.

“We’ll be fully ready as a football team to go to Seattle. I promise you that.” **N**

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